(x) National Institute for Fashion Technology (NIFT), its seven branches and Apparel Training & Design Centres (ATDCs) are running various courses/programmes to meet skilled manpower requirements of textile industry especially apparel in the field of design, merchandising and marketing.

(xi) Facilities by way of eco-testing laboratories have been created to enable exporters to get the garments/textiles pre-tested for conforming to the requirements of importing countries.

Initiatives to boost textile exports

1880. DR. KARAN SINGH:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the current row between China on one hand and United States and the European Union on the other is likely to help Indian textile exports;

(b) if so, whether the recent initiatives taken by Government and manufacturers will also help boost exports;

(c) whether US and EU have imposed an import quota on Chinese products according to the provision of the Textile specific Measures clause of the Accession Agreement signed by China; and

(d) if so, to what extent this quality fixation has helped India to improve its trade with US and EU?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) to (d) As per the agreement reached between EU and China on 10th June, 2005, EU has limited the growth of Chinese textiles exports to Europe in 10 product categories under caps ranging from 8% to 12.5% per year. The actual growth rates of these categories of products during January - March 2005 over the corresponding period January - March 2004 range from 51% to 534% depending on the category. Thus the growth rate has been severely restricted in order to give a period of adjustment for the EU textile industry to adjust after the elimination of the quota system. This agreement will expire in 2007. India is a major exporter in most of the product categories affected by the Agreement, while we are a leading exporter only in one category, table & kitchen linen.

The restrictions placed by EU on China coupled with recent initiatives taken by the Government to boost exports may help increase India's textile exports.

US has also initiated proceedings under 'China Textile Safeguards' provisions on certain product categories originating from China. However, bilateral discussions between US and China have not been held so far.

It is too early to make any realistic assessment about the increase in India's textile exports due to EU/US safeguards action against China.

Revival of NJMC units

1881. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to revive two of the six NJMC units;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the revival of these units are being examined by BRPSE;

(d) if so, the reasons for not referring all the six NJMC units to BRPSE for a detailed examination of the revival prospects;

(e) whether the operating units which were stopped because of disconnection of electricity supply is being restarted after payment of the unpaid power charges; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) to (c) Yes Sir, Government had decided to pose the issue of revival of two units of NJMC Ltd. *viz.*, Khardah & Kinnison to the Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE). Accordingly, the proposal has been referred to the BRPSE.

(d) As per the report of the High Powered Committee for revival of NJMC, the other four units of NJMC Ltd. would not attain any reasonable performance norm as prevailing in the jute industry even after substantial capital investment. Based on the production figures as well as other parameters, only Khardah and Kinnison were thought fit to be brought back to production with minimum infusion of fresh capital for essential